

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01001 020449Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /069 W
-----084614 021021Z /13
R 011437Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7506

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EG, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

1. IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CAIRO ARE OF SUFFICIENT PRIORITY FOR MENGISTU THAT HE HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE THAT HE RECEIVE A SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM SADAT OR SEND ONE TO HIM. THIS INFO AND ANALYSIS WAS PROVIDED TO CHARGE MARCH 1 BY EGYPTIAN CHARGE. HE FURTHER NOTED, CORRECTLY, THAT PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SADAT HAS BEEN CUT OFF, AND HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC DAWIT POINTED OUT DURING FEB 28 MEETING HIS MINISTRY'S INTERVENTION WITH MININFO TO THAT EFFECT. DURING MEETING ABOUT A WEEK EARLIER AT DAWIT'S INVITATION, EGYPTIAN CHARGE MADE TONING-DOWN ATTACKS ON EGYPT IN GENERAL AND ITS CHIEF OF STATE IN PARTICULAR AS PRE-CONDITION FOR THE IMPROVED RELATIONS DAWIT CLAIMED EPMG IS SEEKING.

2. EGYPTIAN CHARGE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED BY MENGISTU'S INITIATIVE AND IS RECOMMENDING THAT SADAT
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RESPOND PROMPTLY BY AGREEING TO RECEIVE MENGISTU'S EMISSARY. SENDING EGYPTIAN EMISSARY WOULD PROBABLY BE MISTAKENLY PLAYED UP HERE AS A SYMBOL OF EGYPTIAN REMORESE. CHARGE BELIEVES EGYPTI AND SUDAN TOGETHER CAN PLAY VERY POSITIVE ROLE IN GETTING SOMALIA TO WITHDRAW, AND THEN A THANKFUL ETHIOPIA WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO MEET EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE URGINS TO GET RID OF SOVIETS

AND CUBANS.

3. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN CHARGE MAY BE PROJECTING OUTCOME
TOO FAR IN ADVANCE, MENGISTU'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO
SEE RAPPROACHMENT FITS INTO OUR OWN ANALYSIS THAT HE
IS DETERMINED TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN AND NOT GET CORNERED.
MATHERON

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